

CATHERINE'S LITERARY WORK

and eternal Father, if it should please Thy mercy and goodness to draw me out of this vessel and make me no more return, not to leave them orphans, but visit them with Thy grace, and make them live as dead, with true and most perfect light; bind them together in the sweet bond of charity, that they may die of ardent desire in this sweet Spouse. And I beseech Thee, eternal Father, that not one of them may be taken out of my hands. Forgive us all our iniquities, and forgive me my great ignorance, and the great negligence that I have committed in Thy Church, in not having done what I might and should have done. I have sinned, Lord, be merciful unto me. I offer and commend my most beloved children to Thee, because they are my soul. And if it please Thy goodness to make me still stay in this vessel, do Thou, sovereign Physician, heal and sustain it, for it is all torn and rent. Grant, eternal Father, grant us Thy sweet benediction. Amen."